

the undisputed position of being one of the finest epigrammatists that ever lived."<sup>1</sup>

The prose of the early sixteenth century is closely modelled on classic prose. Later in the century, the prose is ornate. Rhetorical devices are resorted to, developing a poetic, highly artificial style called Euphuistic, the source of which was John Lyly's Euphues. The prominence of poetry in the Elizabethan Age also tends to make the prose of that period artistic.

A conception of what the character and accomplishments of the ideal courtier were, may be formed from the subjoined quotations: "To fill his place in the hierarchy of this world, he must be better born and better educated, have better manners, wear better clothes, and wear them more gracefully, live in a larger and more beautiful house, find recreation in more refined and more taxing amusements, look to his morals more closely, cherishing above all things a fine sense of honor,—in short, never forget his essential superiority to the rabble."<sup>2</sup> Nature in every thing hath deeply sowed that privy seed, which giveth a certain force and property of her beginning unto whatsoever springeth of it, and maketh it like unto herself. As we see by example, not only in the race of horses and other beasts, but also in trees whose slips are grafts always for the most part are like unto the stock of the tree they came from; and if at any time, they grow out of kind, the fault is in the husbandman. And the like is in men, if they be

1. Life of Chesterfield, p 349.

2. The Doctrine of the English Gentleman, p 13 f.